more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record.

In the Office Action, the Amendment filed July 3, 2000 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132 due to the recitation of "advance notification" in Claims 1, 4, 5 and 9-14, and those claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph (although the Office Action cites the second paragraph of Section 112, Applicants assume the Examiner meant the first paragraph) due to a lack of support in the specification for that recitation. Applicants have amended those claims to delete that phrase, thus obviating the objection and the rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-34 and 39-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,470 (Morita), and Claims 4 and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,745,893 (Hill et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a document processing system that includes document retaining means for retaining a plurality of folders each storing at least one document. Candidate folder selecting means select *a plurality of candidate folders* suitable for retaining a new document, by comparing a feature of the new document with an

average of features of the documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders. Notifying means provide notification of the candidate folder selected by the candidate folder selecting means.

An advantage of the structure of Claim 1 is that the candidate folder selecting means select a plurality of candidate folders for retaining a new document. The notification feature enables a user to select the best folder to retain a new document. Thus, given this feature, an operator can determine which folder to store a document in as a result of the notification, but is provided with the information to do so based on similarity between the new document and the existing document contents of the various existing folders.

Morita, as understood by Applicants, relates to a system for automatically storing originals into a folder that is designated by the system, the originals being objects to be stored, and for generating folders by classifying retained documents using related key words.

In contrast, the recited structure of Claim 1 provides a system that can itself select *candidate* folders for retaining a new document. Applicants submit that the "classification" in *Morita* merely implies "arrangement of

documents", while the recitations "notifying" and "selecting" recited in Claim 1 are directed to a service by which a user is provided with information on the basis of which he or she can select the best folder to retain a new document.

Applicants submit that *Morita* does not describe "candidate folders for retaining a new document" in col. 3, lines 48-57, col. 6, lines 48-57, or col. 11, lines 1-17, nor does any of those passages relate to any means for notifying a user of a *candidate* folder, as recited in Claim 1. Col. 3, lines 48-57, relates to the assignment of a name to a folder, and to the preparation of a hierarchical classification system. No suggestion is seen there that a comparison is made between a new document and the documents in each of plural existing folders, as recited in Claim 1.

Col. 6, lines 48-57 relates to the process of document classification, in which documents are apparently automatically classified and assigned to folders, again automatically, on the basis of the classification. Col. 11, lines 1-17, merely relates to an approach for quantifying the degree of closeness of two or more documents based on a set of key words. Nothing in either passage is seen to teach or suggest the mentioned features of Claim 1.

That is, *Morita* fails to teach or suggest that folders are used to retain a new document, or that the result of processing (a candidate folder) is submitted to a user, as is done by the notifying means recited in Claim 1. In *Morita*, instead, stored documents are automatically classified for arrangement, as described in col. 15, lines 1-13.

Applicants note the argument in the Office Action that the recited notifying means reads on description of a folder in a n order indicating the number of documents related to given key words, for which the Office Action particularly cites col. 12, lines 38-41, and col. 14, lines 63-67. The notifying means is recited in Claims 1 as "providing notification of *the candidate folder* selected by said candidate folder selecting means" (emphasis added). As far as can be seen, the *Morita* system automatically assigns the documents it is processing to a folder based on its analysis, and notifies the user of the hierarchical classification that has been produced by the system. The user does not, as far as can be seen, receive notification of a *candidate* folder -- that is, a folder that the system *proposes* as a suitable folder for a given document to be assigned to, but which the user can presumably accept or

reject. The folders identified to the user by the *Morita* system appear rather to be the final choice of the system, not candidates.

For all these reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is clearly allowable over *Morita*.

Independent system Claim 5, method Claims 9-11, and computer program Claims 12-14, correspond to and are similar in scope to Claim 1, discussed above. Thus, these claims are deemed patentable over *Morita*, as well, for similar reasons.

Independent Claim 4 is directed to a document processing system comprising judging means for judging a similarity degree between document information and a plurality of sets of information of documents stored in a folder, a similarity order calculating means for calculating a similarity order of a plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity judged by said judging means, and notifying means for providing notification of the similarity order of the plurality of folders calculated by the similarity order calculating means.

As understood by Applicants, *Hill* relates to a process and system for determining relevance. Applicants submit that *Hill* neither teaches nor suggests the notifying means recited in Claim 4, by which an operator is notified of

the order of similarity of a plurality of *folders*. By virtue of this notification, the user can determine which folder to store a document in. In *Hill*, originals are stored into folders designated by a system, and the operator apparently cannot choose folders in which to store for particular originals. For these reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 4 is clearly allowable over *Hill*.

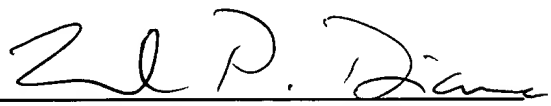
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, she is respectfully requested to contact

Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION OF CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

1. (Three Times Amended) A document processing system comprising:

document retaining means for retaining a plurality of folders each storing at least one document;

candidate folder selecting means for selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for retaining a new document by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of the documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders; and

notifying means for providing [advance] notification of the candidate folder selected by said candidate folder selecting means.

4. (Three Times Amended) A document processing system comprising:

judging means for judging a similarity degree between document information and a plurality of sets of information of documents stored in a folder;

similarity order calculating means for calculating a similarity order of a plurality of folders in

accordance with the similarity judged by said judging means; and

notifying means for providing [advance] notification of the similarity order of the plurality of folders calculated by said similarity order calculating means.

5. (Three Times Amended) A document processing system comprising:

retaining means for retaining a plurality of folders each storing a plurality of sets of document information;

selecting means for selecting a folder from among said plurality of folders based on a number of sets of document information containing a keyword inputted as a search condition; and

notifying means for providing [advance] notification of the folder selected by said folder determining means.

9. (Three Times Amended) A document processing method comprising the steps of:

retaining a plurality of folders each storing at least one document;

selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for retaining a new document by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of the documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders; and

providing [advance] notification of the candidate folder selected in said selecting step.

10. (Three Times Amended) A document processing method comprising the steps of:

judging a similarity degree between document information and a plurality of sets of information of documents stored in a folder;

calculating a similarity order of a plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity judged in said judging step; and

providing [advance] notification of the similarity order of the plurality of folders calculated in said calculating step.

11. (Three Times Amended) A document processing method comprising the steps of:

retaining a plurality of folders each storing a plurality of sets of document information;

selecting a plurality of folders from among the plurality of folders based on a number of sets of document information containing a keyword inputted as a search condition; and

providing [advance] notification of the folder selected in said selecting step.

12. (Three Times Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing programs executing the steps of:

retaining a plurality of folders each storing at least one document;

selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for retaining a new document by comparing a feature

of the new document with an average of features of the documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders; and

providing [advance] notification of the candidate folder selected in said selecting step.

13. (Three Times Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing programs executing the steps of:

judging a similarity degree between document information and a plurality of sets of information of documents stored in a folder;

calculating a similarity order of a plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity judged in said judging step; and

providing [advance] notification of the similarity order of the plurality of folders calculated in said calculating step.

14. (Three Times Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing programs executing the steps of:

retaining a first plurality of folders each storing a plurality of sets of document information;

selecting a second plurality of folders from among the first plurality of folders based on a number of sets of document information containing a keyword inputted as a search condition; and

providing [advance] notification of [the] a particular folder selected in said selecting step.